

THE MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, April 12, 1753.

PETERSBURG, November 20.

THE Damage done by the late Inundation is greater than what we suffered in the Years 1721 and 1726. The Waters have washed away most of the Houses and Keys near the River. The Gardens of Peterhoff and Strelina Muysa have also been greatly damaged, as well as a great Number of Country Houses and Gardens belonging to private Persons. The Island of Wasili Ostrow has likewise been the worse for this Inundation: Count Bestucheff, the Great Chancellor, has a very fine House in that Island, and 'tis reckoned that the Damage done to it by the Overflowing of the Neva, amounts to upwards of 15000 Rubles. A Bastion of the Admiralty, with the Cannon mounted thereon, was removed seven Feet from the Body of the Work. The Batteries of Cronstadt and Wyburg have not suffered less Damage. A Ship that lay in the Road of Cronstadt, bound to Danzig, was lost with all her Cargo, among which there were Chinese Damasks to the Value of 4000 Rubles, which Baron Pretlack, Ambassador from the Court of Vienna, had purchased at Gottenburg, in order to be sent thither. Count Colloredo, who is going to that Court, has lost by the same Accident his Library, which he had put on board that Ship. In the Storm of the 2d Instant, a Lubek Vessel, that lay at Anchor in the Road of Sufferbeck, was carried by the Wind and Floods into an adjacent Wood. It is feared that the Waters of the Gulf will break in upon us again, as the Wind is still at South and South West, whereby the Cellars and low Grounds are yet full. So long as the Wind does not shift, and the Waters continue high, it is impossible for the foreign Ships freighted at Cronstadt to sail for their respective Ports: We reckon above an hundred there, and if the Weather should suddenly set in for Frost, they may be detained all the Winter, to the great Prejudice of the Owners of them. It is reckon'd that above 1000 Persons have perished here, and in the Village of Maifiva, by this terrible Inundation. The Accounts we have received from Narva and Revel are not less melancholy.

Venice, Nov: 27. Advices from Algiers inform us, that a Corsair having lately carried into that Port two small Vessels under French Colours, the Consul of that Nation immediately made such strong Representations to the Dey about it, that the two Ships were directly restored with all the Effects on board, the Algerine Regency not chusing to be visited by a Squadron from Toulon, as the Tripolitans were last Summer.

Leghorn, Nov. 28. The Emperor of Morocco has begun again to chican with England. Besides the ill grounded Complaint lately made, of English Passports being granted to foreign Ships, he claims a certain Sum by Way of Indemnification for Captures made on his Subjects by the Spaniards, in which, he pretends, they were favoured by the English. He farther assumes to impose on the British Subjects new Conditions, directly contrary to those of the late Treaty, and even proposed them to Mr. Peulgrewe, the Consul at Tetuan, threatening to imprison him if they were not complied with.

Berlin, Jan. 2. The Exposition of the Motives, &c. so often mentioned, was preceded by private Representations made to the British Court in the King's Name, by Mr. Mitchell, Secretary to his Majesty's Embassy at that Court, to the following Purpose: "That as the Laws of Justice ought to be equally observed between the two Nations, an Englishman might expect the same Protection from the Courts of Justice at Berlin, as a Prussian from those at London; whenever either Party found himself aggrieved: That upon this Principle depends the Credit and Commerce, not only between these People, but also between the whole trading Part of Europe: That all Nations hold these Bonds of Justice sacred and inviolable,

and observe them at home, in order to reap the Benefit of them among their Neighbours: That from a Nation so replete with noble and generous Sentiments as the English, his Majesty could not doubt to obtain, without any Difficulty, the Satisfaction due to his Subjects: That his Intentions being pure, he was willing faithfully to comply with his Engagements with that Nation, but at the same Time to afford his Subjects the Protection due to them: That in order not to act precipitately in an Affair of this Nature, and to give the English Government Time for Reflection, he continued to discharge the Debt upon Silesia 'til the Time appointed for the last Payment; but when he saw that neither the Equity of his Demands, Time, Reasons, nor repeated Solicitations, could produce any thing in Favour of the Prussian Merchants, he thought himself obliged to have Recourse to the only Means left him, which was to deduct out of the Money due to the English the Sum which his Subjects demanded to repair their Damages: That the same Law which obliges us to act honestly towards our Creditors, authorizes us to require the same Behaviour from our Debtors; it would be a very singular kind of Law that should settle every Thing in Favour of one, and nothing in Favour of the other: That the Affair in Question does not only comprehend what is due from the English to the Prussians, but likewise what is withheld from the latter by Force: That in short, it is just to discharge one's Debts, it is still more so to repair the Damage occasioned by one's own Fault, and by a premeditated Design: That his Majesty having appointed a Commission to enquire impartially into the Pretensions of the Prussian Merchants, placed at the Head of it a Man, whose Name alone was sufficient to remove any Doubt that could be entertained concerning the Equity of the Proceedings, and this was the Great Chancellor de Coccejii, with whom were joined three Ministers of State and several Judges: That this Commission, after having examin'd the Pretensions of the Merchants, and upon a just Computation, valued them at 239840 Crowns, adjudged them only 159486 Crowns for their Capital, and 33285 Crowns for their Interest, at 6 per Cent. That though his Majesty has all imaginable Reason to be persuaded that this Commission proceeds with the most impartial Justice, he is nevertheless disposed to cause a Re-examination, by the same Commission, of any Facts which shall be contested, in case the Officers of the English Privateers, who have been injured, think proper to interpose in order to reform their Judgment, and their Reasons for so doing should prove well grounded. That his Majesty would allow a Term of 3 Months, from the Date of his Declaration, to produce these Reasons, but that if this Time elapsed without their attempting to justify themselves, he would abide by the Arret of his Council, and accordingly deduct the Sum adjudged to his Subjects, together with the Interest to the 10th of July 1752, at the Rate of 6 per Cent. by which Means the Money deducted from the English to indemnify the Prussian Merchants would amount to 194725 Brandenburg Crowns.

His Majesty has caused it farther to be declared to the said Court, That he is ready to remit what remains due of the Loan upon Silesia, both Principal and Interest, to the 10th of July 1752, upon producing proper Acquittances for the same; but that if contrary to all Expectations the English should refuse to come into so equitable a Proposition, he would cause this Sum to be deposited in the Chamber of Justice at Berlin, 'til such Time as the Parties should think proper to withdraw it by Means of proper Acquittances: That moreover, as the Course of Interest must naturally cease after such a Proceeding, he formally protested to be no longer accountable for it, and that after this authentic Protestation, he should look upon the Debt of Silesia as entirely extinct, and that Duthy to be fully discharged from all Obligations upon this Account.

Edinburg, Jan: 2. There is Advice that the

Brothers, of and for Air, from Virginia, with Tobacco, was lost near Portaferry in Ireland; the Crew saved. And

That the Nancy, of Glasgow, Capt. Gray, from Maryland with Tobacco, is ashore near Kirkcubright, but 'tis hoped will be got off. The Crew are all safe except the Carpenter, who was washed overboard some Days before the Misfortune happened.

Bristol, December 16. Last Tuesday we had a terrible Storm of Thunder, Lightning, Rain and Hail, attended with hard Gales of Wind. One of the Claps of Thunder was exceeding loud between five and six in the Evening, and the Lightning at the same Time very much surprized many People in the Streets and Houses. A great Ball of Fire was seen to issue from the Clouds, which shot with great Swiftnes to the Northward. Several People on the Road, coming to this City, were struck with such a Panic, that they got off their Horses to shelter themselves from the Tempest. It is thought that the Lightning came with such large Flashes, as to exceed any Thing of the Kind ever seen here before.

LONDON.

December 27. In the several Conferences which Mr. Wall, the Spanish Ambassador, has had, since his Return from Madrid, with the Secretary of State, he has given the strongest Assurances of the sincere Desire of the King, his Master, to cultivate and strengthen the good Harmony subsisting between the two Nations, and to settle the Navigation in America upon such a Footing, as to prevent for the future, the least Disputes between them.

December 29. We hear that there will be some Alterations and Amendments made to the Laws in Being for suppressing the Growth of Popery among us.

December 30. The Renewal of the Peate with the Emperor of Morocco has cost the Dutch 318,954 Florins, including the Ransom of Capt. Steenis, and his Crew, at 555 Crowns each, whose Shipwreck on that Coast, and subsequent Imprisonment, gave Occasion to this Treaty.

They write from Constantinople, that several Shocks of an Earthquake have been lately felt there, and at Adrianople; but the Damage they have done is inconsiderable, when compared to what was done some Months ago to the latter of those Cities, which now appears to be immense; their finest Mosques were thrown down, and some Thousands of the Inhabitants buried in the Ruins of their Houses, or swallowed up by the Earth, which opened in several Places.

January 11. A new Instrument for viewing the Stars, or taking Observations at Sea, has been sent by the King's Order to Brest; it has but one Reflection, and that by Means of a single Glass, a Conveniency on which none of the former have hit.

His Majesty's most gracious SPEECH to both Houses of Parliament, on Thursday the 11th Day of January, 1753.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received so many Proofs of the good Affections and Zeal of my People, for my Person and Government, that every Opportunity of meeting them in Parliament gives me a new Satisfaction. The Maintenance of the General Peace, already happily established, is so desirable for all Europe, that all my Views and Negotiations have been entirely calculated and directed to preserve it, and secure it's Duration. I am still proceeding, and shall continue to act, upon the same Principle; nothing being capable of giving me so much Comfort, as that my good Subjects may long enjoy the happy Fruits of the present Tranquillity. I have the Satisfaction to be assured of a good Disposition in all the Powers in Alliance with me, to adhere to the same salutary Object; and the Measures which have been taken in different Parts of Europe for that Purpose, cannot fail to give additional Strength